

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1052

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sarah Fekete-Bailey upon the retirement of her softball jersey by the University of Tennessee Lady Vols.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in paying tribute to those gifted athletes who have attained the very pinnacle of sporting achievement and become legends in their respective area of competition; and

WHEREAS, one such storied athlete is Sarah Fekete-Bailey, a University of Tennessee softball legend who has become just the second player in program history to have her jersey retired by the Lady Vols; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Fekete-Bailey was considered the best hitter in the nation at the completion of her collegiate career, and her record of success at the University of Tennessee saw her play in 280 games and amass a staggering 296 hits, 189 runs, 85 stolen bases, and 55 sacrifice hits over her four seasons; her .398 career batting average and .456 career on-base percentage rank third and eighth in Lady Vols history, respectively; and

WHEREAS, after two years as a valuable underclassman contributor, she broke out as a junior in 2005 and became the second Lady Vol to garner first-team All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA), leading Tennessee with a .414 batting clip and .467 OB percent and racking up 79 hits in 68 games played; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Sarah Fekete-Bailey had a historic senior campaign for the Lady Vols, hitting .500 on the year to claim the NCAA batting title. She established a new Southeastern Conference single-season record with 110 hits and also led the league in on-base percentage (.553) while ranking third in runs scored (61). Her 110 hits and .500 batting average still stand as single-season Tennessee program records; and

WHEREAS, that season she also received Louisville Slugger/NFCA first-team All-America and first-team All-SEC honors for the second year in a row and was instrumental in a monumental postseason run for the Big Orange; she led the Lady Vols to an SEC Tournament title and third-place finish at the Women's College World Series while hitting .489 (23-for-47) in postseason play with an on-base percentage of .529; and

WHEREAS, accumulating a number of postseason honors that year, she was recognized as a finalist for the Honda Award and USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Year and was tabbed by Alpha Omicron Pi as the 2006 Lady Vol Athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, the Lady Vol outfielder was selected tenth overall by the Philadelphia Force in the 2006 National Pro Fastpitch Draft. She also represented Team USA and won a gold medal at the 2006 World University Games in Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 University of Tennessee graduate, Sarah Fekete-Bailey resides in her native Blount County and serves as an assistant principal at Alcoa High School, where she is in her fourth year as the head softball coach for the Lady Tornados after an eight-year stint in the same role at Knoxville Catholic High School; and

WHEREAS, this legendary star of the softball field is truly worthy of our approbation, and it is fitting that we honor her on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Sarah Fekete-Bailey upon the retirement of her jersey by the University of Tennessee Lady Vols softball program and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.